



Chapter 5, Question 2

Group 3 & 4

+ Prompt



2. The use of online and on-computer testing systems is becoming a popular, albeit controversial, practice (see <http://www.fairtest.org/facts/computer.htm>). What are the main points raised by critics of these systems? How would you address them?



Criticism of Online and On-Computer Testing



Some of the main points raised by critics of these systems include

- UNPREPARED
- CONSTRAINTS
- BIAS



+ Unprepared

- Critics feel that educational institutions are rushing into online and on computer testing. They see that there has not been enough research done to support the use of these systems as opposed to pencil-paper testing.

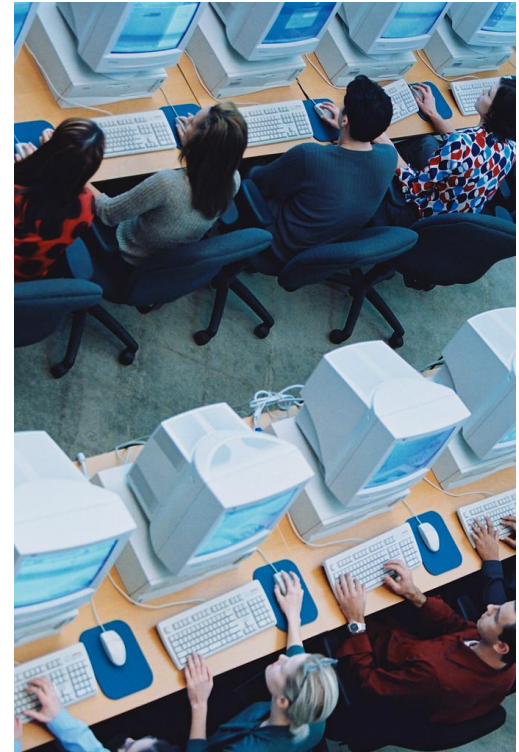




Constraints

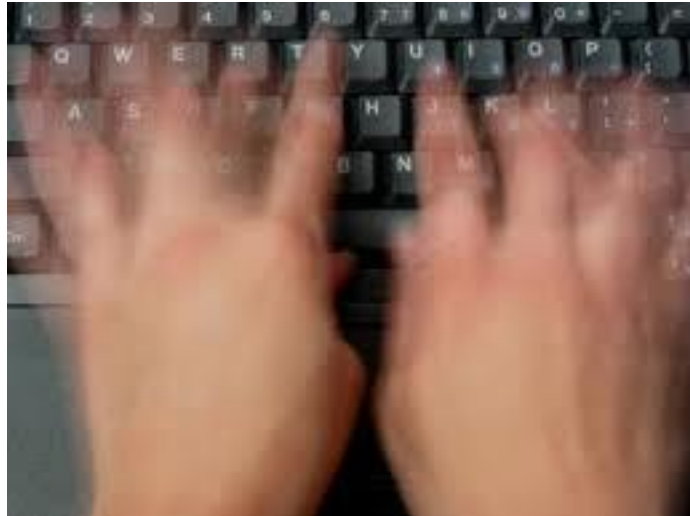


- Some of the constraints cited by critics include the inability for students to scratch out choices, underline information etc.
- They can also only see one page at a time, it is more difficult to detect problems/errors, and it is more difficult to read



+ Bias

- Critics believe that online testing creates a greater cultural, socio-economic, and gender bias.
- It can also be biased in that those who are better at manipulating the keyboard are more likely to do well.



+ Balanced Assessment

- Online and computer testing should not be discounted because although is not going to be beneficial to all of our students, it could be for some. (Example – ELPA).
- A balance/variety of methods of assessments is necessary for all student success. Using a variety of assessment such as online testing, paper-pencil testing, project based learning, etc is recommended.

